

**HISTORIC LANDMARK COMMISSION**  
**OCTOBER 27, 2014**  
**DEMOLITION AND RELOCATION PERMITS**  
**HDP-2014-0873**  
**716 HARRIS AVENUE**

**PROPOSAL**

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Demolish a ca. 1933 house.

**ARCHITECTURE**

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One-and-a-half story, rectangular-plan, side-gabled frame minimal traditional bungalow-style house with a central, front-gabled dormer; single and paired 1:1 fenestration with 9:1 wood screens on the ground-floor windows; round-arched entry. The house has been converted to a tri-plex with an exterior stair and balcony off the attic at the right side of the house.

**RESEARCH**

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The house appears to have been built in 1933 by Paul O. Simms, a local real estate developer. The first occupants were Clarence Clifton Baker and his wife, Ruth, who are listed as renters in the 1935 city directory and as owners after that. Baker was an accountant for the University Co-Op Society; he and Ruth lived here until the early 1940s. They eventually moved to Midland, where Baker died in 1960. Richard E. Lee and his wife Grace owned and occupied the house from the early 1940s through the early 1950s. Lee was a clerk at the Post Office. John R. and Juanita Hammons owned and occupied the house from the early 1950s through the mid-1960s. Hammons was an electrician; Juanita worked as a clerk at the University of Texas. The house then became a rental unit, and in 1964-65, it was remodeled as a duplex. City directory listings from the late 1960s through the present show it as a tri-plex.

**STAFF COMMENTS**

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The house appears in the Comprehensive Cultural Resources Survey (1984) but without a priority for research.

**STAFF RECOMMENDATION**

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Encourage rehabilitation and re-use of the house; while it does not qualify for landmark designation, it is typical of the houses in this neighborhood and should be retained and rehabilitated back into a single-family dwelling if possible. If rehabilitation and re-use of the house is not feasible, then staff recommends relocation over demolition, and in any case of removal, the completion of a City of Austin Documentation Package consisting of photographs of all elevations, a dimensioned sketch plan, and a narrative history, for archiving at the Austin History Center.

LOCATION MAP



-  SUBJECT TRACT
-  PENDING CASE
-  ZONING BOUNDARY

**NOTIFICATIONS**

CASE#: HDP-2014-0873  
LOCATION: 716 Harris Avenue

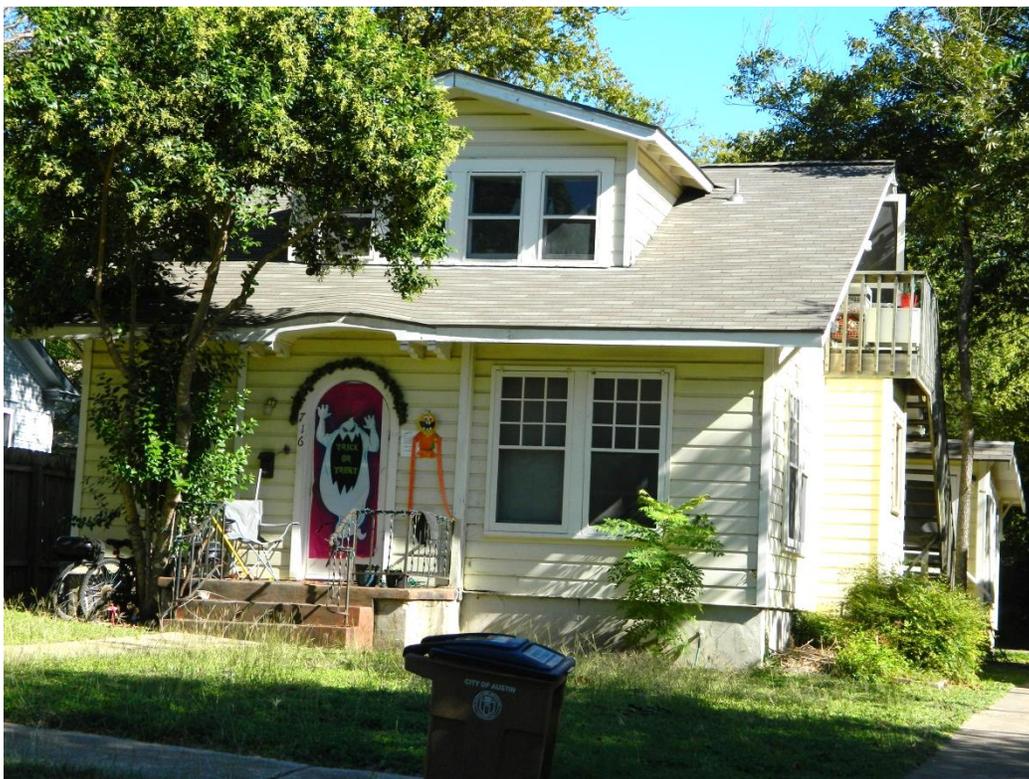


1" = 158'

This product is for informational purposes and may not have been prepared for or be suitable for legal, engineering, or surveying purposes. It does not represent an on-the-ground survey and represents only the approximate relative location of property boundaries.

This product has been produced by CTM for the sole purpose of geographic reference. No warranty is made by the City of Austin regarding specific accuracy or completeness.

716 Harris Avenue  
ca. 1933



## OCCUPANCY HISTORY 716 Harris Avenue

City Directory Research, Austin History Center  
By City Historic Preservation Office  
October, 2014

- |         |    |   |
|---------|----|---|
| 1992    | A: | Jay S. Skelton, renter<br>No occupation listed<br>NOTE: The directory indicates that Jay S. Skelton was a new resident at this address.       |
|         | B: | Gemma Virnoles, renter<br>No occupation listed<br>NOTE: The directory indicates that Gemma Virnoles was a new resident at this address.       |
|         | C: | Oscar K. Houck, Jr., renter<br>No occupation listed   |
| 1985-86 | A: | Roland Echevarria, renter<br>No occupation listed<br>NOTE: The directory indicates that Roland Echevarria was a new resident at this address. |
|         | B: | Matthew K. and Chris Staples, renters<br>No occupation listed   |
|         | C: | Vacant  |
| 1981    | A: | Tanya Fain, renter  |

- No occupation listed  
NOTE: The directory indicates that Tanya Fain was a new resident at this address.
- B: No return
- 1977 A: Vacant  
B: Richard Hudson, renter  
No occupation listed  
NOTE: The directory indicates that Richard Hudson was a new resident at this address.  
C: Leif Jensen, renter  
No occupation listed  
NOTE: The directory indicates that Leif Jensen was a new resident at this address.
- 1973 A: Jerry Bellnoski, renter  
Student  
NOTE: The directory indicates that Jerry Bellnoski was a new resident at this address.  
B: John Davis, renter  
Student  
C: Don Cook, renter  
Student  
NOTE: The directory indicates that Don Cook was a new resident at this address.
- 1968 A: Alan and Ruth Hawkins, renters  
No occupation listed  
B: The address is not listed in the directory.  
C: Homer Bridges, renter  
Teaching assistant, University of Texas
- 1962 John R. and Juanita Hammons, owners  
John: Electrician, Electrical Service Engines, electrical motor service,  
301 Chicon Street.  
Juanita: Clerk, University of Texas
- 1959 John R. and Juanita Hammons, owners  
Proprietor, Industrial Electrical Service, 209 Colorado Street.
- 1955 John R. and Juanita Hammons, owners  
No occupation listed  
NOTE: Richard E. and Grace Lee are listed on a rural route in Austin; he was a camp ranger for the Boy Scouts of America, Capitol Area Council.
- 1952 Richard E. Lee, owner  
Clerk, Post Office  
NOTE: John R. and Juanita Hammons are not listed in the directory.
- 1949 Richard E. and Grace C. Lee, owners  
Clerk, Post Office
- 1947 Richard E. and Grace C. Lee, owners  
Clerk, Post Office

- 1944-45 Richard E. and Grace C. Lee, owners  
Clerk, Post Office
- 1941 C. Clifton and Ruth Baker, owners  
Accountant, University Co-Op Society, 2246 Guadalupe Street.  
NOTE: Richard E. and Grace Lee are listed at 1957 Sabine Street; he was a clerk at the Post Office.
- 1939 C. Clifton and Ruth Baker, owners  
Accountant (no place of business listed)
- 1937 Clarence C. and Ruth Baker, owners  
Accountant, University Co-Op Society, 2246 Guadalupe Street.
- 1935 Clarence C. and Ruth Baker (not listed as owners)  
Accountant, University Co-Op Society, 2246 Guadalupe Street.
- 1932-33 The address is not listed in the directory.  
NOTE: Clarence Clifton Baker (no wife listed) was an accountant for the University Co-Op Society; he lived at 412 W. 35<sup>th</sup> Street. The 1927 directory shows Clarence C. and Ruth Baker living at 2419 Duval Street; he was a soda dispenser in a drug store.

## **BIOGRAPHICAL NOTES**

### **Clarence Clifton and Ruth Baker (ca. 1934 – ca. 1943)**

The 1940 U.S. Census shows Clarence and Ruth Baker as the owners of this house, which was worth \$5,000. Clarence Baker was 39, had been born in Texas, and was an accountant for a retail book store. Ruth Baker was 36, had been born in Texas, and had no occupation listed. They had a daughter, Nita, 13; and a lodger, Roberta Neyland, 23, a Mississippi-born physical training teacher at the University of Texas. Roberta Neyland had lived in Jackson, Mississippi in 1935. The 1930 U.S. Census shows Clifton C. and Ruth Baker as the renters of the house at 102 Rather Place in Austin. Clifton C. Baker was an accountant for the University Co-Op Society. Ruth had no occupation listed.

Clarence Clifton Baker was born in Lockhart in 1900 and died in Midland in 1960. He is buried in Midland. According to his death certificate, he had lived in Midland for 4 years and was an accountant. There was no obituary in the Austin newspapers. His 1918 World War I draft registration card shows that he was living in Austin at that time, and working as a clerk. His nearest relative was his mother, who lived in Lockhart.

### **Richard E. and Grace C. Lee (ca. 1943 – ca. 1954)**

Richard E. and Grace C. Lee appear in the 1940 U.S. Census as the renters of the house at 1806 E. 3<sup>rd</sup> Street. Richard E. Lee was 48, had been born in Texas, and was a public school teacher. Grace C. Lee was 41, had been born in Indiana, and had no occupation listed. They had 3 sons: Leo Charles, 9; Donald Robert, 4; and Joe, 3. All the boys had been born in Texas. The family had lived in rural Wheeler County, Texas in 1935. The 1930 U.S. Census shows Richard E. and Grace Lee living in a house they owned in Allison, Wheeler County, Texas. Richard E. Lee was an insurance salesman; Grace had no occupation listed.

**LEE, Mrs. Richard E., 76,  
Route 7, died Wednesday.  
Services 3:30 p.m. Friday at  
Weed-Corley Funeral Home.  
Survivors: husband, Richard  
E. Lee of Austin; sons, Leo  
Lee of Richardson, Don Lee  
and Joe Lee, both of Austin.**

Obituary of Grace C. Lee  
Austin American-Statesman, November 6, 1975

**John R. and Juanita Hammons (ca. 1957 – ca. 1965)**

The 1940 U.S. Census shows John R. and Juanita Hammons as the renters of an apartment at 1310 Circle Avenue in Austin. John R. Hammons was 24, had been born in Texas, and was a salesman for a wholesale and retail dairy. He had lived in rural Burnet County, Texas in 1935. Juanita Hammons was 19, had been born in Texas, and was a cashier in a shoe store. She had lived in Marble Falls, Texas in 1935. They had no children listed living with them. The 1930 U.S. Census shows John R. Hammons as the 14-year old son of Oscar and Leila Hammons, who lived in the Marble Falls Road in Burnet County, Texas. They owned their home. Oscar Hammons was a cotton ginner. John had no occupation listed.

## John Raymon Hammons

John Raymon Hammons passed away on November 5, 2004, at the age of 88. He was born January 2, 1916, at the mouth of the Pedernales to Oscar and Leila (Carpenter) Hammons. He was raised in Spice-wood and graduated from Bertram High School.

He spent his life as an electrician working jobs ranging from oil exploration seismology to wiring Norad defense radar in Alaska. After retirement he and his wife spent several years working with the Mobile Missionary Assistance Program.

He is survived by a daughter, Kay Griffin; two grandsons, Carl Griffin and wife Adrianna of Lafayette, LA, and David Griffin of Ausitn, Texas.

He was preceded in death by his wife of 61 years, Juanita Kennedy Hammons, a son, Mike Hammons, and a brother, Logan Hammons.

Funeral services will be held on Tuesday, November 9, 2004, at 10:00 a.m., at Clements-Wilcox Chapel in Marble Falls, with Rev. Ralph Mann officiating. Burial to follow in the Marble Falls City Cemetery.

Arrangements are under the direction of Clements-Wilcox Funeral Home in Marble Falls, 830-693-4373.



OWNER Jack Andrewartha ADDRESS 716 Harris Avenue

PLAT 69 LOT 3 BLK 11

SUBDIVISION W. G. Harper

OCCUPANCY Residence

BLD PERMIT # 94378 DATE 12-21-64 OWNERS ESTIMATE \$1500.

CONTRACTOR owner NO. OF FIXTURES 5

WATER TAP REC # X SEWER TAP REC # X

Repair & remodel frame res to create duplex

Building permit to Jack Andrewartha to create a duplex (1964)